

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/JP2004/006419

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B41J2/21

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B41J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 739 743 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP) 30 October 1996 (1996-10-30) cited in the application	12, 13, 16-18
Y	page 9, line 27-38; figures 2, 3	
A		1, 5-7, 9-11 2-4, 14, 15, 19
Y	EP 1 029 688 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 23 August 2000 (2000-08-23)	1, 5-7, 9-11 2-4
A	the whole document	
A	EP 0 517 543 A (CANON KK) 9 December 1992 (1992-12-09) column 9, line 23-49; figures 3, 4	1-7, 9, 11
	--- -/-- ---	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 August 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/09/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Brännström, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/JP2004/006419

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 126 282 A (OIKAWA MASAKI) 3 October 2000 (2000-10-03) column 3, line 1-15 -----	2-7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/JP2004/006419

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0739743	A	30-10-1996	JP 9029950 A	04-02-1997
			DE 69619014 D1	21-03-2002
			DE 69619014 T2	13-06-2002
			EP 0739743 A1	30-10-1996
			JP 3206797 B2	10-09-2001
			JP 9207424 A	12-08-1997
			US 6286953 B1	11-09-2001
			US 6084619 A	04-07-2000
EP 1029688	A	23-08-2000	EP 1029688 A1	23-08-2000
			EP 1029686 A1	23-08-2000
			US 6375307 B1	23-04-2002
EP 0517543	A	09-12-1992	JP 2891799 B2	17-05-1999
			JP 4361052 A	14-12-1992
			AT 158235 T	15-10-1997
			DE 69222228 D1	23-10-1997
			DE 69222228 T2	29-01-1998
			EP 0517543 A2	09-12-1992
			US 5384587 A	24-01-1995
US 6126282	A	03-10-2000	JP 3176333 B2	18-06-2001
			JP 11188862 A	13-07-1999